

Did you know?

1 in 5 Georgians are elder persons or disabled adults.

1 in 10 elder persons or disabled adults are victims of abuse, neglect or exploitation.

Just **1 in 23** cases of abuse, neglect and exploitation are reported.

Nationwide, elder persons or disabled adults lose

\$36.5 billion

annually due to financial exploitation

50%

of people with dementia are abused or neglected by their caregivers

How to report abuse

To report abuse of an elder person or disabled adult NOT residing in a long-term care facility, contact **Adult Protective Services**.

1-866-552-4464
aging.georgia.gov

To report abuse of an elder person or disabled adult residing in a long-term care facility, contact the **Department of Community Health**.

1-800-878-6442
dch.ga.gov

Always contact law enforcement with any suspicions of abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Dial 911



Georgia Department of Human Services
Division of Aging Services

FORENSIC SPECIAL INITIATIVES UNIT



Mandated Reporting

What to do when you suspect **abuse, neglect or exploitation** of an elder person or disabled adult



Georgia Department of Human Services
Division of Aging Services



Are you a mandated reporter?

The list below shows those who are required by law to report suspicions of abuse, neglect or exploitation.

Mandated reporters

Mandated reporters include but are not limited to the following:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| - Physicians | - Psychiatrists | - Coroners |
| - Interns/Residents | - Psychologists | - Law Enforcement |
| - Osteopaths | - Licensed Professional Counselors | - Clergymen |
| - Podiatrists | - Social Workers | - Direct Support Professionals |
| - Optometrists | - Day-Care Personnel | - Emergency Medical Services / |
| - Dentists | - Healthcare Facility Administrators | Paramedics |
| - Chiropractors | - or Managers | - Speech Therapists |
| - Pharmacists | - Other Hospital / Medical Personnel | - Fire & Rescue Personnel |
| - Occupational Therapists | - Nursing Personnel | - Mental Health Professionals |
| - Physical Therapists | - Medical Examiners | - Employees of Financial Institutions* |

*Applies only to OCGA §30-5-4

Georgia law also lists:

- Any employee of public / private agencies engaged in professional health related services to elder persons or disabled adults. [OCGA § 30-5-4]
- Any employee of public / private agencies engaged in professional services to residents or responsible for inspection of long-term care facilities. [OCGA § 31-8-82]

Signs to look for

Abuse: bruises, black eyes, fractures, sprains, dislocations, untreated injuries and conditions, cuts, open wounds, broken eyeglasses, physical signs of restraint, unusual behavioral changes, sexual abuse

Neglect: dehydration, malnutrition, untreated bed sores, poor personal hygiene, hazardous living arrangements, unclean living conditions

Exploitation: sudden changes in banking practices, inclusion of additional names on an adult's bank signature card, unauthorized withdrawal of funds using the adult's ATM card, abrupt changes in a will or other financial documents, unexplained disappearance of funds or valuable possessions, unpaid bills, forged signatures, unexplained transfer of assets to a family member or someone outside the family

Immunity

Mandated reporters are immune from any civil or criminal liability on account of their report or testimony or participation in an investigation unless that person acted in bad faith, with a malicious purpose, or was a part to such crime or fraud.

[OCGA §31-8-85 & §30-5-4]

Failure to report

It is unlawful for any person or official required to report abuse, neglect, or, exploitation to fail knowingly and willingly to make such a report. Any person violating the provisions of the code shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

[OCGA §30-5-8 & §31-5-8]